

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00233 121428Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
SP-02 AID-05 EUR-12 /068 W
-----128648 121433Z /43

R 121400Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

SECSTATE WASHDC 6407

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0233

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR, SY

SUBJ: SYRIAN AIR OPERATIONS AND FLEET EXPANSION PLANS

REF: A. 77 DAMASCUS 6446, B. 77 DAMASCUS 2929, C. ROME 20990

1. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTED REFS A. AND B. IS NOW MEETING TO REESTABLISH GOVERNING BOARD OF SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES (SAA) AND TO FROM FUTURE POLICY ON ROUTES AND FLEET EXPANSION. FOR THIS REASON NO RPT NO DECISIONS HAVE YET BEEN TAKEN ON PURCHASE NEW 727-200'S OR ANY OTHER AIRCRAFT. FINANCING IS NOT PROBLEM BECAUSE SAA FINDS INTSELF EMBARRASSINGLY LIQUID AND CAN AFFORD TO PAY CASH. (PARADOX OF AIRLINE, WHICH WILL LOSE MONEY WHEN 1977 BOOKS ARE CLOSED, BEING LIQUID EXPLAINED BY FACT SAA HAS BEEN DEPRECIATING PRESENT 747 AIRCRAFT-- FOR WHICH IT NEVER PAID-- AT RATE FASTER THAN STANDARD PRACTICE.)

2. WE HAVE ALSO DISCOVERED MUCH TO OUR SURPRISE THAT SAA CONTINUES TO FLY TO CAIRO. THE SERVICE WAS STOPPED AND STARTED SEVERAL TIMES WHEN THE BREAK IN RELATIONS
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 00233 121428Z

WAS FIRST ANNOUNCED, BUT WHEN THEY REALIZED THE EGYPTIANS HAD NO OBJECTION THEY CONTINUED TO OPERATE. IN FACT, EGYPTAIR HAS JUST INFORMED DAMASCUS IT ITS PROPOSED SUMMER SCHEDULE AND HAS ASKED FOR THE ROUTINE APPROVALS.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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